

cannot be confined to the back bench. We in Congress must be active and participate in all international trade negotiations. The Thomas bill would have us serve merely as consultants. That is not what we were elected to do. We were elected to voice and protect the interests not only of my district but of the American people in general. The Thomas Fast Track bill is an unfortunate manipulation of trade policy.

Since September 11, broad bipartisanship has been a top priority.

□ 1730

This bill serves in dividing the line. This bill is driving a wedge between the Democrats, the Republicans, between the Democrats and the high-tech community. The partisan tactics of the proponents of the Thomas Fast Track bill stands in stark contrast to the President's statement last week that the passage of Trade Promotion Authority would send a signal that Congress and the administration are united on trade. Congress is not united on trade. Now is not the time to move forward with the Thomas Fast Track legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would support legislation granting President Bush Fast Track negotiation powers provided it addressed effectively the key issues of labor and the environment and the role of Congress. I am not against free trade. Unfortunately, this bill we will vote on tomorrow fails to address the new realities of trade in an effective and realistic manner.

The Thomas bill endangers a rare opportunity to build a bipartisan consensus in support of tearing down trade barriers in a way that would create jobs and raise living standards around the world. Labor and environmental considerations are not merely social considerations. The truth is that inclusion of labor and the environmental issues has real commercial significance for the terms of trade.

A growing number of people around the world, having experienced the negative effects of free trade agreements, we can look back at NAFTA, are opposing accords such as the proposed free trade agreements because we know what we have experienced from many of the jobs lost in the auto industry, the manufacturing industries, and many other areas where people lost their jobs.

We need a different kind of trade agreement, one that would benefit working people and the environment in every country. We can no longer give free reign to the over-exploitation of the workers who abuse not only workers but children and the environment. We must protect the interests of hard-working Americans and the hard-working individuals in our global community.

PASS HATES CRIMES LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), H.R. 1433. I think there is nothing more important that we are doing here in this session than this Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We are wasting our time passing junk resolutions, in many cases, and we do not address an important piece of legislation like this. More than 200 Members have signed on as cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think that every legal or legislative step that can be taken to combat hate should be taken. Hate is a strong force in the world. It is a monster expressing itself in many ways. The hate monster has us by the neck all over the world, but terrorists that we are fighting in Afghanistan, bin Laden, the al Qaeda network throughout the world, is motivated by hate. Hate seems to generate more fervor than love. People who are pushing love and want to do things differently do not seem to have the same kind of motivation or energy. The people who want to destroy our democracy, they hate us because we will not cover our women in public, they hate us for a thousand different reasons, and we need to meet that with tactics and with strategies that are as strong as the hatemongers.

We need to have in every way blanket condemnations of hatred, intolerance, and we need to be very detailed in this country. In this country we can get into the details of what is wrong. We need to condemn intolerance, and we need to specifically condemn intolerance that relates to sexism or intolerance that relates to race or disability. There are some people who, some men in particular, who are very adamant in terms of the workplace, and they cannot stand intolerance or oppression by the boss or management, but they will exploit and oppress women.

There are some people in certain races who certainly will speak out against racial intolerances, and they will also oppress women. There are some women who will certainly defend the rights of women to be equal, but they will oppress or be intolerant of people of other races. All of these things add up to a situation that is very complex. We cannot stop it by legislation, but legislation plays a key role. We are the catalytic agent in the process of helping people to deal with hate, making our society as a whole deal with hate.

Nationality or ethnic origin is certainly unacceptable for hatemongers,

also; and, unfortunately, in our agencies of government, bureaucracies sometimes express a bit of intolerance and sometimes get into hate. Under the President's pressures of terrorism, as we mount our campaign against terrorism, I have seen in my own district Pakistanis rounded up because they are Muslim, and those Pakistanis when they were interrogated, they may have some immigration problems, they have been put in holding pens and jails in New Jersey outside of New York City. About 200 people in a 2-month period have been rounded up and held for 2 or 3 weeks merely because they have an infraction related to immigration but not a serious crime. They asked to go home, and, instead of being immediately processed out and sent home, they were held. One man even died there because there is an intolerance in the FBI bureaucracy under the pressure of the present situation to combat terrorism.

We should not let our guard down and become intolerant of any particular group. Immigrants in general are being put on the spot. I have a large number of people in my district from the Caribbean. Through World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, they never found a single Caribbean espionage agent from Haiti or any other Caribbean nation. Why are they penalizing and putting those people on the spot and profiling them in the situation that presently exists?

It is intolerant, unreasonable and from our own agencies we should not tolerate it. Let us take every step possible. H.R. 1433 is an important step. We do not need more hate in the world. We need in our official conduct as well as our personal conduct to do everything possible to combat hate.

POSTAL WORKERS PROVE DETERMINATION TO GET JOB DONE IS SECOND TO NONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, "Neither snow, nor rain, no heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

These words ring truer now than ever before. In recent weeks, our country's postal workers have once again proven that their determination to get the job done is second to none.

Thankfully, the anthrax scare that recently gripped the Nation has subsided. This does not mean that we should be less diligent when it comes to looking for lessons to draw from these acts of terrorism. Even now, it is clear that commerce in this country is inextricably linked to confidence in our mail system. Maintaining confidence in the system requires that we

do whatever is necessary to ensure the mail's safety.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago as I toured postal facilities in southern Indiana. Simply, I got an earful. Foremost in the minds of these dedicated Hoosiers was the question of when would the mail facilities receive the help needed to purchase and install anti-biological irradiation equipment.

I hope the answer to that particular question is sooner rather than later. The Postal Service needs our help. In the meantime, I have no doubt that Postal Service employees will continue to brave the elements and the unknown and deliver the mail.

FUTURE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to continue to speak out on the critical issue of women in Afghanistan and their plight during these perilous times. As Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, I have made it a priority to address the House each week to provide a voice to the women who have been silent far too long. It is also my intention to continue to raise awareness about the current state and the future state of women and children in Afghanistan.

Today marks the conclusion of the Bonn negotiations for a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan. A new interim administrator will be in place by December 22. While few women were involved in the current negotiations, I am happy to learn that women will take part in the rebuilding of their country. The new administration will include five deputy prime ministers and 23 other members for negotiation. Of the five deputy prime ministers, one is a woman. Women are also expected to occupy up to five other ministerial portfolios. One minister is to be established solely for women and children. I am happy to report that there is progress being made.

Under the proposed agreement, a special commission will be appointed within a month to organize the calling of an emergency legislature or traditional constituent assembly of provisional leaders and notables. It should be called within 6 months and would have the right to revise the new interim executive and create other bodies that would serve for up to 2 years.

The commission is also to ensure that due attention is paid to the presence in the governing body of a significant number of women. The proposed agreement foresees the drafting of a new constitution to be ratified by another legislature, with elections to

take place at the end of that 2-year period.

As women strive both inside the country and outside to contribute towards shaping a meaningful future, we must demonstrate our resolve to help those Afghanistan leaders be involved in all political and economic negotiations from the outset. It is extremely important that there are not just a few women used as tokens but as real partners and equal partners. Women need to be involved in every aspect of that country's fabric.

As I have said before, Afghan women must be ensured of their basic human rights once more such as access to safe drinking water and sufficient food; to receive decent health and maternal care; and, foremost, to again move freely in their society without being subject to harassment and abuse. Above all, they must be allowed to practice their religious beliefs as Islamic women without retribution.

It will be important to see that women are involved in the emergency *laya jerga* since it appears that this is a real place where power and authority will be exercised.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this report this evening.

□ 1745

HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to offer my thoughts on the importance of passing in this body hate crimes legislation, but also to ask this House to prioritize its work. Inasmuch as we can spend an enormous amount of time on some very valid initiatives, I do believe that hate crimes legislation, the passage of hate crimes legislation that has been offered in two previous congressional sessions, is long overdue and it is not being passed.

I heard a colleague of mine just earlier today talk about the climate in which we live. All of us have stood up against terrorism and have given to the President the authority to ferret out terrorism and to bring to justice those who perpetrated the unspeakable crime on September 11, 2001. But, likewise, we have spoken against the indictment of the Islamic faith and all Muslims. We realize that Muslims are not the crux of our problem inasmuch as the virtues of their faith talk about peace and justice.

I would say that we experienced over the past weekend some terrible tragedies, terrible loss of life in the Mideast. It does us no good as well to speak hate against either the Israelis or the PLO. In fact, it is most important that we look to speak to the issues of peace and

reconciliation and bringing people together.

Our first step to acknowledge to the world that we will not harbor hate is to pass our own hate crimes legislation so that we can say to the world we argue and fight against hate in this Nation, and we will stand against hate in the world. We cannot cry in a one-sided manner. We must cry for all of those who lose their life.

So, as we talk about the passage of hate crimes legislation, let us be reminded that we have those brothers and sisters within our boundaries who feel that they have been discriminated against because of their faith. We may have brothers and sisters around the world who feel that these tragedies that have occurred, that we have somewhat not understood their crisis and that we do not look to seek peace. I would argue that we can find peace here in this Nation and a recognition and reconciliation of our opposition to hate by passing the hate crimes legislation, and we can do so by speaking to all parties who would come to the table of peace to design peace in the Mideast and to design peace in Afghanistan.

The hate crimes legislation that is so needed in this country would address the question of Leonard Clark, a 13-year-old African American teenager who was riding his bicycle one day in Chicago when he was accosted and brutally beaten by three white teenagers. The perpetrators have been charged with attempted murder, aggravated battery and hate crimes under the Illinois State law. However, the irony in this case is that one of the key witnesses to the beating remains missing. A Federal hate crimes law would have allowed for the full involvement of the FBI in this case, thereby increasing the chances of capture and justice.

In my own congressional district in Houston in 1995, Fred Mangione, a homosexual, was stabbed to death, and his companion was brutally assaulted. The two men who were charged with Mangione's murder claimed to be members of the German Peace Corps, which has been characterized in media reports as a neo-Nazi organization based in California. At the time, this crime did not meet the State of Texas threshold for trial as a capital offense because the murder did not occur during the commission of a rape or robbery. Justice failed us during that time frame.

I am very gratified to say that since that time and since the brutal beating and killing and dismemberment of James Byrd, Jr., we have passed the James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Act in Texas. It was passed by Republicans and Democrats and signed by a Republican Governor.

So I speak tonight not in one voice. I speak to all of my colleagues, and I am gratified that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has offered